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Ravalli County Commissioners

July 27, 2007

To the Ravalli County Commissioners,

This letter concerns the proposed rock quarry in the Lost Horse drainage. Because there are over seventy families living in the area plus so many more that travel the narrow road for recreation and access to Lost Horse Resort it is imperative that you address the safety issues that are concomitant with the hauling of material on the only road into the quarry. Do you think the road is wide enough and of such good construction that the heavily laden trucks can maneuver safely while meeting oncoming traffic? Will the county need to pay extra money to improve and or widen the main road in order to haul rock safely? If so, then how does the extra expense fit into the county budget? The traffic safety issue is also complicated by the intersection off hiway 93 and Lost Horse Road due to the nature of the junction. The large size of the haul trucks means that several lanes of traffic will be blocked when the trucks make left turns from hiway 93 onto Lost Horse or vice versa, depending upon which direction the loads are going. During the 3 or more second blockage the oncoming traffic is dealing with visibility problems because of hill itself as well total braking distances of over 240feet when traveling at 60mph on dry roads. We are left to wonder what will happen in the months of October through March when the driving conditions can be impacted by rain, sleet, snow, and ice and the resulting increases in stopping distances.

If you lived in the Lost Horse area and owned property would you feel comfortable with a large project and heavy truck movement on your only road into the area? How will the hauling affect the property values of homeowners that cherish the rural setting they have chosen to live in? Please use your best judgement regarding these issue in dealing with the safety, property values, recreational opportunities, and the use of the taxpayers hard earned money. A question that seems interesting is whether the county has the equipment to do the processing of the large size rocks. If we don't have this size crusher and must purchase same, what will be added to the cost of the operation? This answer has not been forthcoming from the county road department in past discussions.

Please investigate and show that you care about the community and show that you are good stewards of the land and the taxpayers dollars. Continue to work together to manage the counties business in the most efficient manner possible.

Sincerely,



Bill Sweet

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